

Minutes

NECA Board Meeting – 18 June, 2024

7:00 pm

Hybrid meeting – in person at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse & virtually online

Board members present: Ray Boomgaardt, Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Ted Bennett, Kostyantyn Frolov, Karen Squires, Katherine Hall, Jason Tavoularis, Sean Flynn

Absent: Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi, Chris Straka, Sean McNulty, Sharon Nyangweso

Guests: Erin McCracken and Athena [online] both from the Councillor King’s office, Victoria Walker

1. Welcome

Ray welcomed guests in person and online.

The agenda was approved.

The May minutes were approved.

2. NECA’s Strategic Priorities

New Edinburgh resident Victoria Walker introduced herself, noting that she and her husband have lived here for 30 years (with periodic absences as diplomats). She said she was prompted to propose some changes to the strategic priorities document based on the discussion at the last AGM where individuals’ interests on a traffic proposal overtook any long-term view for future generations.

As a result, she has suggested an overarching objective for the strategic priorities – to express what the community association wants to do and achieve as a whole, understanding that it evolves. She also proposed sustainability as an overarching objective (going beyond environmental concerns to healthy communities now and into the future, as the UN defines “sustainability”) to be reflected throughout the priorities.

The board discussed the idea of community and the scope of the term “sustainability” and including a vision statement for the priorities, as Victoria proposed. There should also be consideration of how this document fits with the by-laws.

It was agreed that a revised document would be reviewed at the September NECA meeting, in order to prepare a document for the AGM package and community review.

3. New Edinburgh News

Karen introduced Michelle McLean who is the new advertising manager for NEN, and Inger Vander Horst, one of the copy-editors, who were attending in person.

4. Beechwood development

Jason mentioned the June 12 meeting on issues regarding Beechwood Avenue, including road maintenance, traffic, sidewalks, cycling and development. That meeting was hosted by Councillors King and Plante with participation by community residents and City staff.

It was agreed by NECA members who attended that the community presentation and discussion at the meeting was very thorough and that City staff seem committed to taking action.

5. Friends of the Park

Katherine reported that there are still garbage issues and we are expecting the new three-stream bins from the City will arrive in the next week or so. There will be additional garbage pails in the park. Dog signs have been installed. The park also needs bike signs.

There was also discussion of safety concerns about the speed of e-bikes (specifically the heavy, motorized ones) in the park. Any concerns should be reported to police rather than to bylaw. A member noted that in High Park in Toronto, there are police who do sting operations to ding e-bikes who are cycling too fast.

6. Other business – NCC's SGEC park plan

Sarah mentioned the recent consultation by the National Capital Commission on its draft final plan for the Sir George-Etienne Cartier Park and explained some of the community reaction to it.

NECA made a submission welcoming a plan but highlighting some key concerns, especially regarding proposals for Pine Hill and the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club – as they were significant proposals which community residents were seeing for the first time in this draft final plan. Sarah noted that the NCC replied promptly regarding some of NECA's comments about Pine Hill proposals and policies.

NECA also noted the brevity of the consultation period (two weeks) and urged the NCC to consult fully before implementing any of the specific proposals cited in the draft final plan.

7. Adjournment

On a motion, which was approved, the meeting adjourned at 8 pm